



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Fleet Mapping Work Session Successful

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The fleet mapping work session held March 17-19 at the Hill County Detention Center in Havre was a definite success. Kudos go to Curt Petrik, Sheridan County, who handled registration and to the instructors who were: Lewis and Clark County Radio System Manager Roger Hays, Hill County Sheriff Don Brostrom, and Flathead County Radio System Administrator Jack Spillman with assistance from IM Radio System Administrator Roger Smith. Note: The editor apologizes for inadvertently not listing Roger Hays as an instructor in the March 6 article about the session.

Nearly 30 participants attended the training, representing the Fort Belknap and Blackfeet Tribes and the counties of Blaine, Daniels, Flathead, Lincoln, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Toole, and Valley. BLM was also represented.

Don Brostrom began the session with a review of radio terminology, the concept of talk groups and talk-group structure as well as a wide range of details related to programming and the step-by-step process from filling out forms to actually putting the code plugs into the radio. Roger Hays also covered technology issues related to trunking concepts and features as well as how to derive code plugs. Jack Spillman also assisted in the instruction and walk-through exercises.

According to Curt Petrik, the session went extremely well and participants learned a lot. The instructors provided personalized assistance and shared individual know-how about the subject matter.

Additional work sessions are planned. The HAM will keep you posted on dates and locations.

IM Booth at HAZMAT Conference

By Dan Sullivan dsullivan@mt.gov

The IM hosted an information booth in conjunction with the 17th Annual Hazmat Conference for Indian Nations and Local Communities held March 16-19 at the KwaTaqNuk Inn in Polson. The conference was hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes as well as Lake and Sanders Counties.

WICC Project Director George Gupton and Montana Highway Patrol radio technician Dale Osborne manned the booth and demonstrated the



Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol, explains trunked radio technology to a participant at the 17th Annual Hazmat Conference for Indian Nations and Local Communities in Polson. George Gupton appears in the background.

use of trunked radios that could “talk” all the way from Polson to Helena. Dale answered many technical questions from conference participants, who included representatives from law enforcement, fire and emergency responders from across Montana and Indian Nations.

The conference included presentations from the Indian Nations Working Group, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), the Dept. of Environmental Quality, the Dept. of Public Health and Human Services, the Highway Patrol; and, federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Dept. of Homeland Security. Montana DES presented an emergency planning course led by Fred Naeher and Charlie Hanson. The Missoula EOD Team also demonstrated its bomb disposal robot. The conference provided the opportunity to share ideas across many disciplines and jurisdictions.

Western Consortium Meeting Held

By Dan Sullivan dsullivan@mt.gov

The Western Interoperable Communications Consortium (WICC) held a brief meeting in conjunction with the Annual Hazmat Conference for Indian Nations and Local Communities conference this week. Project Director George Gupton reported on IM staffing, the last Project Directors’ meeting, and the \$2 million request from the state legislature. The request is working its way through the legislative process, but nothing is certain at this time.



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Sanders County reiterated the need for a microwave hop from Thompson Falls to Plains. Missoula County stated that its highest priority is to have microwave to Miller's Peak. Ravalli County is working on federal 299 forms for new (green) sites and noted that running power to the proposed site will be less expensive than originally thought.

The next meeting was tentatively set for April 20 with the location to be announced.

IWCE Conference Offers Training and Technology Resources

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The International Wireless Conference and Exposition (IWCE) took place in Las Vegas March 16-20. Two PSSB staffers, Scott Bradford and Wing Spooner, attended along with other IM folks. Wing attended College of Technology courses the first two days on Radio Over IP (VoIP) technology, Microwave and RF, Infrastructure and Towers, and Decoding the Alphabet Soup of Wireless LAN and WAN Technologies.

The Exposition featured more than 350 vendors of communications systems technology related to land mobile radios; wireless applications for voice, video, and data; paging; antennas; RF engineering; VoIP; GPS; towers; shelters; and even surveillance equipment. In addition, the conference offered workshops on a wide variety of topics, such as grant writing, interoperability, regulatory and policy issues, in-building wireless best practices, satellite communications and the impact of new technology on firefighters. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, gave a presentation on effective governance models for supporting the establishment of an interoperability program.

The IWCE conference is an effective way to keep up with the rapidly changing technologies and equipment available in today's market.

Upcoming Meetings

March 23

IM Technical Committee

Helena • 9:00 am-3:00 pm

MACo Lrg. Conf. Rm., Lower Level; 2715 Skyway Dr.

March 23

IM Staffing Sub-Committee

Helena • 3:00-5:00 pm

MACo Lrg. Conf. Rm., Lower Level; 2715 Skyway Dr.

March 25

Tri-County Consortium

Helena • 10:00 am

Dept. of Corrections Annex, behind 515 N. Sanders

March 25

Eastern Tier (ETIC)

Glendive • 10:00 am

Dawson County Courthouse Com. Rm. • 207 W. Bell

March 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium

Billings • Technical Committee: 8:30 -10:00 am

• Consortium: 10:00 am-noon

Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N.

March 26

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Butte-Silver Bow Chamber • 1000 George St.

April 2

Mobile Data Consortium

Bozeman • 10:00 am

Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

April 2

Northern Tier Consortium (NTIC)

Havre • 9:00 am - noon

Great Northern Inn, 1345 1st St.

April 11

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMICC)

White Sulphur Springs • 10:00 am

Sheriff's Office Training Center, 123 West Crawford

April 11

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)

Great Falls • 10:00 am

Wheat Building • 750 6th Street S.W.